

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 06093 080503Z

17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 080248Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3104

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6093

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, CH

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS' CORREGIDOR DAY SPEECH

SUMMARY: IN CORREGIDOR SPEECH MAY 6, PRESIDENT MARCOS
WARNED THREAT TO PHILIPPINES IS NOT EXTERNAL AGGRESSION
BUT A "MASSIVE TYPE OF INFILTRATION." PRESIDENT'S WARNING
REFLECTS HIS ANXIETY OVER RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA AND
APPEARS DESIGNED AGAIN PUT PRC ON NOTICE GOP WILL TOLERATE
NO MEDDLING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. CONCERN OVER
INFILTRATION UNDERSTANDABLE VIEW CURRENT PHILIPPINE
EXPERIENCE BUT REITERATION OF THIS THEME, WHICH FIRST
RAISED DURING PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR REVIEW OF SECURITY
RELATIONS, MAY ALSO REFLECT APPREHENSION ABOUT NEW
CAPABILITIES AND ARROGANCE OF COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 06093 080503Z

INDOCHINA. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING SPEECH AT CORREGIDOR DAY CEREMONIES MAY 6, PRESIDENT MARCOS SAID PHILIPPINES IS IN NO DANGER OF EXTERNAL AGGRESSION BUT THE THREAT IS A "MASSIVE TYPE OF INFILTRATION WHICH WILL PROBABLY SEEK TO SUPPORT WITH ARMS, EQUIPMENT, FUNDS AND SUPPLIES FROM OUTSIDE WHETHER COVERTLY OR OPENLY, AN INDIGENOUS REBEL FORCE WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES THAT SEEKS TO OVERTHROW THE ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT." MARCOS CLAIMED THIS TYPE OF AGGRESSION HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE IN SUBVERTING GOVERNMENTS AND HAS LED TO ACTUAL TAKEOVERS AND SEIZURES OF POLITICAL POWER BY FORCE AND VIOLENCE ELSEWHERE.

2. PRESIDENT SAID BEST INSURANCE AGAINST THIS THREAT WAS PREPARATION FOR IT IN "WEAPONS, TRAINING AND CONTINUOUS UPDATING OF THE CONCEPTS OF WARFARE". MOST FUNDAMENTAL PREPARATION, HOWEVER WAS PROVIDING THE PEOPLE WITH SENSE OF UNITY, WILL TO FIGHT, AND WILL TO SURVIVE. ADVERTING TO INDOCHINA, PRESIDENT SAID ARMED FORCES THERE HAD COLLAPSED NOT BECAUSE OF ENEMY PRESSURE BUT RATHER FROM INTERNAL DISINTEGRATION. HE MAINTAINED ARMED FORCES ONLY MIRROR SOCIETY. IF THEY LACK THE WILL TO FIGHT, SO TOO WILL THE ENTIRE SOCIETY.

3. PRESIDENT STRESSED FILIPINO GUERRILLA WARFARE TRADITION IN CONTEXT OF NEED FOR NATIONAL SELF-RELIANCE. SHOULD WAR COME, "EVERY ABLE BODIED CITIZEN, ARMED OR UNARMED, SHALL FORM PART OF THE COUNTRY'S TOTAL EFFORT" WHICH WILL COVER ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF CONVENTIONAL AND UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE. PRESIDENT CONCEDED THERE NO GUARANTEE THAT INFILTRATORS WOULD NOT HAVE SOME SUCCESS BUT WARNED "THAT WE SHALL MAKE IT TOO COSTLY FOR HIM A PRICE TO EVEN THINK OF SUCH AN ENDEAVOR." PRESIDENT STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT PHILIPPINES AIM "WAS TO LIVE AT PEACE WITH ALL AS FRIENDS IN EQUALITY, EXTENDING OUR HANDS TO ALL IN WARMTH AND SINCERITY, BUT SUBSERVIENT TO NONE."

4. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S REMARKS MADE AT CORREGIDOR COMMEMORATION CEREMONY AT WHICH BOTH US AND JAPANESE AMBASSADORS ALSO SPOKE. MARCOS HAS USED INFILTRATION AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 06093 080503Z

SELF-RELIANCE THEMES PREVIOUSLY BUT EMPHASIS ON FILIPINO GUERRILLA TRADITION IS NEW. GIVEN SITUATION IN SOUTH, MARCOS COULD BE REFERRING TO EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE TO MUSLIM DISSIDENTS. WE THINK IT MORE LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT MARCOS, ALBEIT DELPHICALLY, IS SENDING MESSAGE TO PRC, MUCH AS HE DID ON OCCASION OF ACCEPTANCE OF CHINESE OIL LAST OCTOBER (MANILA 12359 OF 10/16/74). MESSAGE THEN WAS THAT GOP WANTED ASSURANCES AGAINST FURTHER PRC ADVENTURES

IN PHILIPPINES BEFORE NORMALIZATION PROCESS CONCLUDED. NOW THAT NORMALIZATION IS MORE OR LESS INEVITABLE, MESSAGE OF MAY 6 IS THAT GOP WILL NOT ACQUIESCE IN PRC MEDDLING IN PHILIPPINE AFFAIRS AND THAT SHOULD IT TRY MARCOS WILL PUT UP STIFF RESISTANCE. THOUGH TINGED WITH CERTAIN BRAVADO THIS SENTIMENT IS NO DOUBT GENUINE AND DEEPLY FELT. PRESUMABLY MARCOS CHOSE TO RENEW HIS MESSAGE AS DATE FOR HIS PEKING JOURNEY DRAWS NEARER. MOREOVER, PRESIDENT IS NO DOUBT AGITATED BY EVENTS IN INDOCHINA WHOSE COURSE HE FEELS HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLEY INFLUENCES BY PRC. ONLY DIRECT REFERENCE TO CHINA IN MARCOS SPEECH WAS WHEN HE NOTED THAT MOROS HAD FOUGHT CHINESE CORSAIRS WHO HAD OCCUPIED CORREGIDOR IN 13TH CENTURY.

5. CONCERN OVER THREAT BY INFILTRATION WAS EXPRESSED IN PRESIDENT'S SPEECH CALLING FOR REVIEW OF SECURITY RELATIONS. IT IS BOTH REALISTIC AND FAIRLY COMMON ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY PROBLEM BEST EXEMPLIFIED BY MUSLIM STRUGGLE BUT ALSO PRECEDENTED WITH APPARENT PRC ATTEMPTS TO AID NPA.

6. GIVEN IN THIS FORM, SPEECH SEEMS ALSO TO REPRESENT MARCOS WARNING TO THOSE FILIPINOS WHO FEEL THAT THEIR COUNTRY CAN ASSUME A COMPLACENT ROLE OF NEUTRALITY, SECURE BEHIND THE BARRIER OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. HE MAY HAVE FELT THAT TIME HAD COME TO CHECK SOME OF THE "THIRD WORLD" PRESS SPECULATION WHICH HAS SUGGESTED THAT PHILIPPINES NO LONGER HAS SECURITY PROBLEM AND CAN THEREFORE IGNORE ITS DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS.
SULLIVAN

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